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Docket #E-01933A-15-0100

Chairwoman Susan Bitter Smith
Commissioner Bob Stump
Commissioner Bob Burns
Commissioner Tom Forese
Commissioner Doug Little

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AZ CORP COMMISSION
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Arizona Corporation Commission

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Dear ACC Commissioners,

My name is Patrick Cobb and I'm a recent graduate of the Pima Community College PV Installer Certificate program. I recently got hired on with a Tucson-based company doing my dream job, installing solar panels.

I like living in beautiful Arizona, especially Tucson, and I hope I can stay a while. But if the net metering rules change, making solar less affordable to the average citizen, that will hurt the industry in Tucson, and put thousands of jobs, including mine, in jeopardy. I don't want to move to find work in CA, or MN or god forbid, NJ, where utilities are embracing solar. I want my hard earned money to stay right here in AZ. Solar was once one of the fastest growing industries in AZ, providing solid paying jobs in a recovering economy. But with the utility's antagonistic moves to put up financial barriers, it has put a major crimp in the industry. Many local solar companies have shut down, or have moved to greener pastures. My colleagues in the Pima program who were hoping to get on with Solar City were turned away because Solar City is currently on a hiring freeze, thanks in part, to the steep barriers that other AZ utilities have ratified. The market and the demand for rooftop solar is huge. Find a way to take advantage of that. People want it, both to save money, and to save the environment. Solar, unlike coal or natural gas, provides a sustainable source of power, consumes no water and emits no pollution into the atmosphere.

In the future, I see a use for the grid, to complement and and distribute a reliable steady supply of renewable energy to consumers, but technology could quickly change that. If the utilities continue to put up barriers against rooftop grid-tied PV, eventually, the incentive will be for people to disconnect altogether. It won't be long before Elon Musk's battery factory starts cranking out the residential storage solution for excess solar production. And once they do, people, with grid-tied PV systems, whose rates shot up, will be dropping off like flies.

In conclusion, I hope that you have enough foresight to plan towards the long range, not just next quarter's share-holder meeting in Calgary, and realize that renewable energy, a big chunk of which is going to come from rooftop PV, is the future of energy production, not only in America, but in the world. We live in a modern society and that society requires electricity to function, but we also need to live more sustainably, and I hope you, the ACC, and the utilities that you regulate, can view solar power, not as competition, but as a complementary power generation tool to make the grid viable into the future.

Thank-you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Patrick Cobb